

7th QM Battalion starts a road show

By Master Sgt. Mike GIORGIO
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Like a finely tuned road group, the leadership of the 7th Battalion (QM), 4th Brigade (CSS), is literally taking its show on the road. With nine service sites in four states, the senior leaders have taken the initiative to go to each site to give support to instructors and staff. This is an innovative approach, relieving members of the unit from having to drive frequently to headquarters in Montgomery, Ala., for various needs.

Newly assigned commander, Lt. Col. Michael E. Weaver and Command Sgt. Maj. Hal Kent have put together a team of Montgomery staff and are visiting training sites on a rotating basis.

"Instead of the soldiers having to come to Montgomery to get answers and solve their individual problems, we are coming to them. This allows them to fully concentrate on their jobs, which is instructing soldiers in MOS producing courses," said Weaver during a recent visit with the Smyrna Training Site located just southeast of Nashville.

According to Kent, a complement of administrative personnel also visit the sites for updating individual personnel records, taking care of pay problems, planning career paths and scheduling activities such as physicals.

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Battalion commander

ly to come to Montgomery, we can make life much simpler for them by bringing the service to them. In the past, our personnel have felt much removed from their home unit. Many of them live hundreds of miles away from our headquarters. By us visiting the sites frequently, they get to know us and we get to know them better. We are trying to eliminate feeling like we are sometimes dealing with strangers," said Kent.

The majority of the battalion's more than 150 soldiers only sees the leadership one time each year, and that is at annual training. The 7th Battalion (QM) instructs classes in the MOS of 77F, 77W, 92A, 92G, and 92Y. Annual training is usually conducted at Ft. Lee, Va., home of the quartermaster.

A major strong point of the 7th is its ability to be flexible in providing

its services. "We stress that our unit exists to serve other units which need their soldiers trained. Oftentimes, special needs arise whereby units quickly need us to teach a course. We do our best to accommodate them when these 'pop-ups' occur, and we have been very successful at this. Besides providing the best instructors around, our goal is also to provide full cooperation and support to the requesting units," Weaver said.

Soldiers in the 7th Battalion (QM) are also complimentary of this new approach. Longtime instructor, Master Sgt. Charles Chadwick, who teaches 92A courses at the Smyrna Site, indicated he was greatly in favor of this new way of taking care of business.

"In the past, we have felt rather detached from our home unit. Sometimes it is difficult to get training aides and our personal needs fulfilled. This gives us the ability to speak directly to the commander and command sergeant major, and it gives them a chance to see first hand what our jobs are out in the field," said Chadwick, "and it gives us a chance to demonstrate how effective we are in teaching soldiers a new MOS."

LTC Weaver further commented, "I look forward to mingling and being with our 7th Battalion folks out in the field. This next year will see major changes in our operating procedures, and we should all be the better for it" Weaver said.